

LARGE PELAGIC SURVEY (LPS)

NMFS collects data on recreational fishing catch and effort through the LPS. The LPS consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews. Participation is mandatory. This information is necessary for accurate stock assessments. If contacted, please support and cooperate with this effort. For more information about the LPS, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RECENT UPDATES

Small Coastal Stock Assessment - 2007
HMS Identification Guide - Available now
Large Coastal Stock Assessment - Available now
Dusky Shark Stock Assessment - Available now
Amendment to Shark Regulations - 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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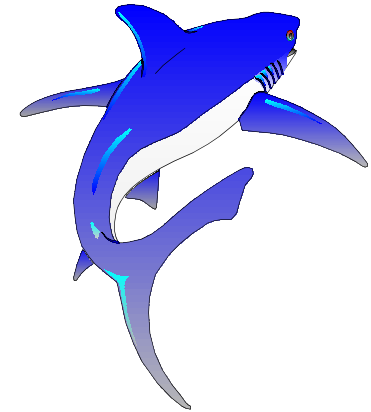
If your marina or fishing club would like to receive regular shark postings from our HMS Email network, please contact HMS at (301) 713-2347. Alternatively, information about *all* Federal fisheries, including the shark fishery, can be obtained electronically via FISHNEWS. Please see www.nmfs.noaa.gov to sign up for this service.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Enforcement Hotline	800-853-1964
Coast Guard Hotline	800-SAVE-FISH
Southeast HMS Office	727-824-5399
Northeast HMS Office	978-281-9260
HMS Headquarters Office	301-713-2347
HMS Infoline	800-894-5528
Southeast Permits Office	888-872-8862

Highly Migratory Species Management Division SF1
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Atlantic Shark Recreational Fishery Regulations



October 2006

National Marine Fisheries Service

Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species Management Division



This pamphlet was prepared in October 2006 to provide interested fishermen a summary of the recreational fishing regulations for Atlantic sharks. Complete regulations may be found at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/. The official regulations can be found in 50 CFR part 635 and the *Federal Register*. Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current official regulations. This brochure is produced in compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

HMS ANGLING PERMITS

Owners of private vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, billfish, sharks, and swordfish) are required to obtain an HMS Angling category permit from NMFS. Vessels for hire need to refer to Charter/Headboat permit information. The angling permit can be purchased online at www.hmspermits.gov or by calling 888-872-8862. For Atlantic sharks, this permit requirement is applicable only when fishing in Federal waters, although state regulations may also apply.

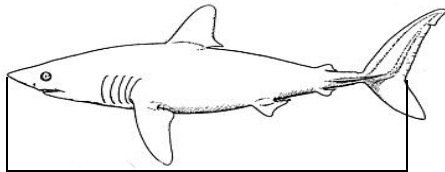
NO SALE PROVISION

Recreational fishermen (those fishermen who do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) are not allowed to sell, barter, or trade Atlantic shark or shark pieces.

BAG LIMIT AND MINIMUM SIZE

ONE shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54", 4.5 ft, or 1.37m fork length; plus ONE Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus ONE bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).

In general, HMS permit holders must abide by all applicable Federal regulations, regardless of where fishing occurs, including in state waters. However, when fishing in the waters of a state with more stringent regulations, vessels must abide by the more restrictive state regulations.



Fork Length

AUTHORIZED GEARS

Rod and reel and handline are the only fishing gears that may be used by recreational anglers. If handlines are used they must remain attached to, or in contact with, the fishing vessel.

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

Harvested sharks must have all fins, head, and tail attached through landing. Sharks may be bled and gutted as long as the required parts are still attached. This regulation will aid species-specific identification of landed sharks dockside, which is important for stock assessments.

RELEASE INFORMATION

If you catch a prohibited species or an undersized shark, you must release that fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury and without removing the fish from the water. If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it.

SPECIES THAT MAY BE KEPT

Large Coastal Sharks

Sandbar, Blacktip, Spinner, Tiger, Silky, Nurse, Lemon, Bull, Great hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, and Scalloped hammerhead

Small Coastal Sharks

Atlantic sharpnose, Blacknose, Bonnethead, and Finetooth

Pelagic Sharks

Shortfin mako, Oceanic whitetip, Blue, Common thresher, and Porbeagle

SPECIES THAT MUST BE RELEASED*

White, Dusky, Sand tiger, Bigeye sand tiger, Whale, Basking, Bignose, Galapagos, Night, Caribbean reef, Narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, Smalltail, Atlantic angel, Longfin mako, Bigeye thresher, Sevengill, Sixgill, and Bigeye sixgill

*Prohibited species must be released immediately with minimum injury and without removing them from the water.

HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS

If you own or operate a Charter/headboat (CHB) vessel that fishes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, you must have an Atlantic HMS CHB permit. The permit can be purchased online at www.hmspermits.gov or by calling 888-872-8862. Sale of fish by CHB permit holders is prohibited unless the vessel also has a limited access permit and the fishing season is open. NMFS will select

a percentage of permitted CHB to complete a logbook for each trip. If you would like to volunteer to carry an observer to monitor catch and release rates and condition of released fish, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

HMS TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

The tournament operator responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, must register the tournament with NMFS at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. Call the HMS Management Division at (727) 824-5399 or visit the website www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms to receive a registration form.

NMFS will select certain tournaments for reporting. If your tournament is selected, NMFS will send you a reporting form that must be returned to NMFS within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

TAGGING INFORMATION

To obtain shark tags and information on the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, visit www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov or write to:

Apex Predators Program
NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service
28 Tarzwell Drive
Narragansett, RI 02882-1199